

**ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE**

An apparatus and method determining an optimum recording power suitable for a disc loaded in a disc drive. The apparatus includes a pickup unit and a control unit. The pickup unit records data in a predetermined area on the disc and reproduces the recorded data from the disc. The control unit controls the disc drive to record data in the predetermined area of the disc using a preset reference recording power. The control unit detects a plurality of recording powers using reproduction signals of the predetermined area reproduced from the pickup unit and one or more reference values, and decides an optimum recording power for the disc based on the detected plurality of recording powers. Thus, the recording power used by an active layer of the disc can be prevented from varying due to hardware error in the disc drive with respect to various kinds of discs.